



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR TELEPHONIC MEETING
5th Floor Conference Room
August 5, 2020
3:30 P.M.**

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Castagno was present via Webex and called the meeting to order at 3:32 P.M. Commissioner Salvatore Bramante was present. Commissioners Michael Ajello, Stephen Penny and Andrew Cascudo were present via Webex. Agency staff was also present.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 22, 2020

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of July 22, 2020 as amended. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 24, 2020

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of July 24, 2020. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 29, 2020

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of July 29, 2020. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

III. Administrative Reports

Director Brandi reported the staff is moving quickly on CEP application. As of this afternoon we have received more than 200 applications, 169 have been previously approved and have many on for this meeting. we are probably more than 2/3 of the way through the CEP season. Staff is working very hard to get those applications in and approved.

Director Brandi advised that budget wise the agency is early in the year will continue to maintain a close eye on budget dollars especially in light of the pending deficit for the 2021 fiscal year.

Director Brandi updated that staff is focused on the primary for next week. The hotline will be up and running. Staff is already fielding calls and questions about absentee ballots and expects to field a lot more calls. Staff will closely monitor the situation of absentee ballots with the Secretary of the State's office.

IV. Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1), (3),(4),(10) and General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300 (Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)

1. Recommendation of Counsel: Discussion of Candidate Committee Validation Memoranda

Executive Session was not convened.

V. Consideration of Application for Public Grants from the Citizens' Election Fund

A. New Applications

1. *"Demicco 2020," Michael Demicco*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"Demicco 2020," Michael Demicco*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. *"EricM96th," Eric Mastroianni*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"EricM96th," Eric Mastroianni*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

3. *"Perillo 2020," Jason Perillo*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Perillo 2020," Jason Perillo*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

4. *"Rebekah for Newtown 2020," Rebekah Harriman-Stites*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"Rebekah for Newtown 2020," Rebekah Harriman-Stites*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

5. *"Andrew M Rasmussen-Tuller," Andrew Rasmussen-Tuller*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"Andrew M Rasmussen-Tuller," Andrew Rasmussen-Tuller*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

6. *"Kousidi4CTSenate" Elisavet Kousidis*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"Kousidi4CTSenate" Elisavet Kousidis*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

7. *"Alden 2020," Alden Russell*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to continue without prejudice the grant application for *"Alden 2020," Alden Russell*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

8. *"Billie Miller 2020," Patricia Billie Miller*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"Billie Miller 2020," Patricia Billie Miller*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

B. Continuation of Prior Applications Awaiting Additional Information to Qualify for a Grant

1. *"Christine Goupil 2020," Christine Goupil*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"Christine Goupil 2020," Christine Goupil*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

2. *"Gale Mastrofrancesco for State Rep," Gale Mastrofrancesco*
3. *"PauChic2020," Paul Ciccarella*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"PauChic2020," Paul Ciccarella*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

4. *"Brian Smith 2020," Brian Smith*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"Brian Smith 2020," Brian Smith*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

5. *"PC 108," Patrick Callahan*

6. *"Chafee 2020," Brandon Chafee*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"Chafee 2020," Brandon Chafee*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

7. *"LaPorta for CT," Joseph LaPorta*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"LaPorta for CT," Joseph LaPorta*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

8. *"Rackliffe 4 CT 79," David Rackliffe*

9. *"Slap for Senate," Derek Slap*

10. *"ElectHector.com," Hector Arzeno*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"ElectHector.com," Hector Arzeno*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

11. *"Steinberg for State Rep.," Jonathan Steinberg*

12. *"Szynkowicz 2020," Linda Szynkowicz*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"Szynkowicz 2020," Linda Szynkowicz*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

13. *"Riccio for Branford," Marc Riccio*

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve the grant application for *"Riccio for Branford," Marc Riccio*. So voted by a vote of 5-0-0.

VI. Pending Complaints and Investigations

A. Public Session

1. *In re. Commission Initiated Investigation: Lumaj for CT*

File No. 2019-032

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondent:

Attorney:

Legal Investigator:

Joseph Kilduff

James Talbert-Slagle

Scott Branfuhr

Attorney James Talbert-Slagle summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2019-032. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2019-032. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

2. In the Matter of a Complaint by Kim Fawcett, Fairfield
File No. 2012-235
Proposed Findings & Conclusions
Respondents:

Chris DeSanctis, Joseph
DeMartino and Richard
Santalesa
James Talbert-Slagle
Charlie Urso

Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

The matter is marked off.

3. In the Matter of a Referral by Lewis A. Button, III, The Office of the
Secretary of State
File No. 2018-082
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondents:

Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

Ryan M. Burns
Scott Branfuhr

The matter is marked off.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Norman Gauthier, Preston
File No. 2019-107A
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement
Respondents:

Attorney:
Legal Investigator:

Desiree Majcher
Ryan M. Burns
Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-107A. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-107A. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Norman Gauthier, Preston
File No. 2019-116
Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents:	Desiree Majcher
Attorney:	Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator:	Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-116. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-116. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

6. In the Matter of a Complaint by Norman Gauthier, Preston
File No. 2019-107B

Proposed Findings & Conclusions

Respondents:	Gregory Moran
Attorney:	Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator:	Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2019-107B. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2019-107B. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

7. In the Matter of a Complaint by Anita Duggato, Derby
File No. 2019-122

Proposed Consent Order & Agreement

Respondents:	Richard Dziekan
Attorney:	Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator:	Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Ryan M. Burns summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-122. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-122 pending receipt in 14 days. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Consent Order & Agreement will be available on our website under Commission Decisions upon receipt.

VII. Executive Session per General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1), (3),(4),(10) and General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300 (Preliminary draft and agency consideration of enforcement action and exempt records relative thereto)

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo at 4:15 P.M. to proceed into Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes §§ 1-200(6)(B) and (E), and 1-210(b)(1),(3),(4),(10) to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and exempt records. So voted.

Commissioner Bramante was present. Commissioners Castagno, Ajello, Penny and Cascudo were present via Webex. Staff members present via teleconference were Kevin Ahern. Staff members present were Scott Branfuhr, Ryan M. Burns, James Talbert-Slagle, Michael J. Brandi and Sheri-Lyn Lagueux.

The Commission returned to public session at 4:48 P.M.

The Commission took the following actions in public session:

1. Recommendation of Counsel: Necessary to Investigate Determination pursuant to General Statutes §9-7a, as amended by Public Act 11-48 §300

Attorney Michael J. Brandi summarized the Recommendation of Counsel dated July 27, 2020 and requested that three (3) matters be moved to investigate.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to make a determination that it is necessary to investigate violations relating to three (3) complaints File No.: 2020-042, 2020-043 and 2020-044. So approved by the Commission, 5-0-0. So voted.

2. In the Matter of a Referral by Greenwich RoV Fred A. DeCaro III
File No. 2018-049
Recommendation of Counsel

Attorney:

Kevin M. Ahern

Legal Investigator:

Gilberto Oyola

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-049. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-049. So voted by a vote 5-0-0. The Findings & Conclusions will be available on our website under Commission Decisions.

3. In the Matter of a Complaint by Maria C. Nunez, Maria L. Nunez, and Maria M. Nunez, Hartford
File No. 2018-060
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-060. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Findings & Conclusions.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Findings & Conclusions in File No. 2018-060. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

4. In the Matter of a Complaint by Hope Kasper, Middletown
File No. 2019-157
Recommendation of Counsel
Attorney: Kevin M. Ahern
Legal Investigator: Stephanie Fish

Attorney Kevin M. Ahern summarized the above referenced complaint and Proposed Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-157. He recommended adoption of the Proposed Consent Order & Agreement.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to adopt the Consent Order & Agreement in File No. 2019-157. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

5. In the Matter of a Complaint by Alyssa Peterson, Hartford
File No. 2019-101B
Recommendations of Counsel
Attorney: Ryan M. Burns
Legal Investigator: Scott Branfuhr

The matter is continued.

6. In Re June 30, 2020 Filing by Denise Merrill, Office of the Secretary of State, of Statement for the Removal of a Registrar, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §9-190c, Hartford

Attorney Michael Brandi summarized the above referenced matter. He recommended approval of a letter to the Office of the Attorney General.

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and seconded by Commissioner Cascudo to approve a letter to the Office of the Attorney General to dismiss the Filing by Denise Merrill, Office of the Secretary of State, of Statement for the Removal of

a Registrar, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §9-190c, Hartford. So voted by a vote 5-0-0.

VIII. Consideration of Matters Discussed in Executive Session

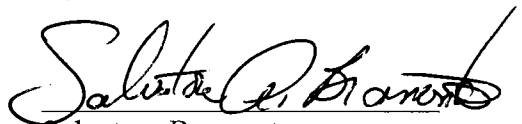
IX. Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Ajello and Seconded by Commissioner Cascudo at 4:55 PM to adjourn the meeting. Unless otherwise noted, all votes of the Commission are unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Sheri-Lyn Lagueur
Clerk of the Commission

Adopted this 16th day of September, 2020 at Hartford, Connecticut.


Salvatore Bramante
By Order of the Commission

The next regular scheduled meeting is August 12, 2020 at 3:30 P.M. in the 5th Floor Conference room.